

Abstract of the Invention

The present invention concerns a method for detecting the presence of a ribosome inactivating protein in a sample. The method comprises contacting a sample suspected of 5 containing a ribosome inactivating protein with a 2'-O-methylated oligonucleotide substrate having a GA<sub>x</sub>GA tetraloop wherein "A<sub>x</sub>" is a deoxyribonucleoside comprising a fluorescent adenine derivative or analog base capable of emitting a fluorescence when released from the nucleoside, "A<sub>x</sub>", and detecting the presence of the fluorescent adenine derivative or analog base released from the tetraloop as an indication of the presence of the ribosome 10 inactivating protein in the sample. The present invention is also directed to an assay kit and a reagent useful for carrying out the steps of the above method.